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May 6, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General, United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors would like to acknowledge the deep commitment of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) to the important work that would be funded pursuant to the "Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking" grant. If funded by this grant, the Department will actively engage with partner agencies, advocates and community leaders to create and support a Los Angeles County Human Trafficking Task Force. The Department will enthusiastically serve as a co-leader of this initiative, along with the United States Attorney's Office and a local victim service provider, the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST). The Department will work with these partners to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking, provide them with appropriate victim-centered services, and prosecute those who prey on some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff, Jim McDonnell, has had a strong commitment to developing new thinking and strategic approaches to combat human trafficking for many years, both during his tenure at the Los Angeles Police Department and as Chief of the Long Beach Police Department. In Long Beach, Sheriff McDonnell initiated effective enforcement work in this arena, including the targeting of trafficking organizations and demand side offenders, while also working across systems to promote support for the young victims of these offenses. His work in Long Beach has been viewed as a model for efforts elsewhere.


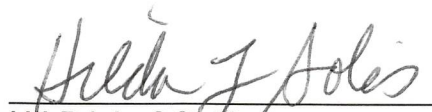
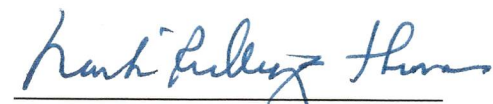
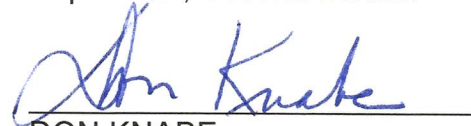
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As the newly elected Sheriff of Los Angeles County, Sheriff McDonnell has made clear his aim to prioritize efforts to address human trafficking in a regional manner. The Sheriff's Department has the unique ability to fill an existing void in our County and bring local, State and Federal agencies, systems, and leaders together in developing strategies that can promote effective crime fighting, enhance awareness and attend to the needs of victims. It is the Sheriff's aim to create a new focus in his Department on these issues and to use his track record as a local and State leader to build out proactive regional engagement in this area, while also working with national leaders to identify best practices. We believe that the Sheriff's work can serve as a national model on this important issue.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors affirms our support, and the support of the 18,000 men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, to protecting the victims of this devastating criminal activity. We are confident that the Sheriff's experience, relationships and credibility among other State and local law enforcement leaders will ensure that this effort is a resounding success.

Therefore, we, the Board of Supervisors, affirm our support for the Sheriff and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in its application for the "Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking" grant.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Mayor of the Board
HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District
SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District
DON KNABE
Supervisor, Fourth District

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